

**To:** candace.nachman@noaa.gov[candace.nachman@noaa.gov]; daniel.hartung@boem.gov[daniel.hartung@boem.gov]; amanda.tuttle1@bp.com[amanda.tuttle1@bp.com]; pauline.ruddy@bp.com[pauline.ruddy@bp.com]; craig.george@north-slope.org[craig.george@north-slope.org]; EFjelstad@perkinscoie.com[EFjelstad@perkinscoie.com]; EHumphries@pewtrusts.org[EHumphries@pewtrusts.org]; George.Olemaun@north-slope.org[George.Olemaun@north-slope.org]; Gordon.Brower@north-slope.org[Gordon.Brower@north-slope.org]; ICAS.Natural@inupiatgov.com[ICAS.Natural@inupiatgov.com]; Jessica.Lefevre@lefrevre.org[Jessica.Lefevre@lefrevre.org]; Jolie.Harrison@noaa.gov[Jolie.Harrison@noaa.gov]; Lois\_Epstein@tws.org[Lois\_Epstein@tws.org]; susan.childs@shell.com[susan.childs@shell.com]; greg.horner@shell.com[greg.horner@shell.com]; lana.davis@shell.com[lana.davis@shell.com]; harry.brower@north-slope.org[harry.brower@north-slope.org]; nancy.deshu@boem.gov[nancy.deshu@boem.gov];

**Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**

Native.village@astacalaska.net[Native.village@astacalaska.net]; Norajane.Burns@north-slope.org[Norajane.Burns@north-slope.org]; RDaniel@pewtrusts.org[RDaniel@pewtrusts.org]; Robert.Suydam@north-slope.org[Robert.Suydam@north-slope.org]; Shoshana.Lew@boem.gov[Shoshana.Lew@boem.gov]; Sharon.Morgan@alaska.gov[Sharon.Morgan@alaska.gov]; Taqulik.Hepa@north-slope.org[Taqulik.Hepa@north-slope.org]; Todd.Sformo@north-slope.org[Todd.Sformo@north-slope.org];

**Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**

virgina.raps@boem.gov[virgina.raps@boem.gov];

William.J.Muldoon@conocophillips.com[William.J.Muldoon@conocophillips.com]; acarreon@Environcorp.com[acarreon@Environcorp.com]; adfg\_librarian@arlis.org[adfg\_librarian@arlis.org]; aewc1@gci.net[aewc1@gci.net]; aewcdir1@gci.net[aewcdir1@gci.net]; aewmdir@inupiatgov.com[aewmdir@inupiatgov.com]; aewcfm@gci.net[aewcfm@gci.net]; ahartsig@oceancconservancy.org[ahartsig@oceancconservancy.org]; anna@alaskawild.org[anna@alaskawild.org]; bcummings@biologicaldiversity.org[bcummings@biologicaldiversity.org]; bob.harcharek@cityofbarrow.org[bob.harcharek@cityofbarrow.org]; caren.mathis@asrcenergy.com[caren.mathis@asrcenergy.com]; caryn.rea@conocophillips.com[caryn.rea@conocophillips.com]; chair@alaska.sierraclub.org[chair@alaska.sierraclub.org]; chris@crag.org[chris@crag.org]; cportman@akrdc.org[cportman@akrdc.org]; dec.commissioner@alaska.gov[dec.commissioner@alaska.gov]; dec.deputy.commissioner@alaska.gov[dec.deputy.commissioner@alaska.gov]; dhobstetter@earthjustice.org[dhobstetter@earthjustice.org]; ecolaw@trustees.org[ecolaw@trustees.org]; ejorgensen@earthjustice.org[ejorgensen@earthjustice.org]; emailkaktovik@kaktovik.com[emailkaktovik@kaktovik.com]; emilie@alaskawild.org[emilie@alaskawild.org]; emily@sierraclubalaska.org[emily@sierraclubalaska.org]; emyers@audubon.org[emyers@audubon.org]; erika.denman@exxonmobil.com[erika.denman@exxonmobil.com];

**Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**

executive@inupiatgov.com[executive@inupiatgov.com]; gary.mendivil@alaska.gov[gary.mendivil@alaska.gov];

**Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**

glenn.richard@asrc.com[glenn.richard@asrc.com]; heather.ptak@shell.com[heather.ptak@shell.com]; icas.executive@inupiatgov.com[icas.executive@inupiatgov.com]; icas.tribal@inupiatgov.com[icas.tribal@inupiatgov.com]; icaspiz@astacalaska.net[icaspiz@astacalaska.net]; institute@institutenorth.org[institute@institutenorth.org]; inukapigak@kuukpik.com[inukapigak@kuukpik.com]; jacob.adams@north-slope.org[jacob.adams@north-slope.org]; james.kendall@boem.gov[james.kendall@boem.gov]; janet.sheldon@exxonmobil.com[janet.sheldon@exxonmobil.com]; jmills@noatak.nwarctic.org[jmills@noatak.nwarctic.org]; jonne.slemons@alaska.gov[jonne.slemons@alaska.gov]; kbe@statoil.com[kbe@statoil.com]; kivalina@aitc.org[kivalina@aitc.org]; larry.burgess@enipetroleum.com[larry.burgess@enipetroleum.com];

gerry.brown@alaska.gov[gerry.brown@alaska.gov]; chris.foley@alaska.gov[chris.foley@alaska.gov]; wade.strickland@alaska.gov[wade.strickland@alaska.gov]; mlevine@oceana.org[mlevine@oceana.org];

[redacted] Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy [redacted] resources@akrdc.org[resources@akrdc.org]; sara.longan@alaska.gov[sara.longan@alaska.gov]; ed.fogels@alaska.gov[ed.fogels@alaska.gov]; tolemaun@nvbarrow.net[tolmaun@nvbarrow.net];

[redacted] Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy [redacted] brad.smith@noaa.gov[brad.smith@noaa.gov]; shannon\_torrence@fws.gov[shannon\_torrence@fws.gov]; ted\_swem@fws.gov[ted\_swem@fws.gov]; moriarty@aoga.org[moriarty@aoga.org]; jeffrey.missal@bsee.gov[jeffrey.missal@bsee.gov]; mark.fesmire@bsee.gov[mark.fesmire@bsee.gov]; a.panigeo-aewc@gci.net[a.panigeo-aewc@gci.net]; waverly.thorsen@fairweather.com[waverly.thorsen@fairweather.com];

judy.kitagawa@bp.com[judy.kitagawa@bp.com]; [redacted] Ex. 6 Personal Privacy [redacted] psharp@olgoonik.com[psharp@olgoonik.com]; sara.longan@alaska.gov[sara.longan@alaska.gov]; dbowen@olgoonik.com[dbowen@olgoonik.com]; mhickman@olgoonik.com[mhickman@olgoonik.com]; waska.williams@north-slope.org[waska.williams@north-slope.org]; john.adams@north-slope.org[john.adams@north-slope.org]; thomas.browerlll@north-slope.org[thomas.browerlll@north-slope.org]; bart.ahsogeak@north-slope.org[bart.ahsogeak@north-slope.org]; ned.arey@north-slope.org[ned.arey@north-slope.org]; ralph.burke@north-slope.org[ralph.burke@north-slope.org]; gina.shirey@alaska.gov[gina.shirey@alaska.gov]; pleavitt-aewc@gci.net[pleavitt-aewc@gci.net]; Alma.Upicksoun@north-slope.org[Alma.Upicksoun@north-slope.org]; Dawn.Winalski@north-slope.org[Dawn.Winalski@north-slope.org]; doreen.lampe@inupiatgov.com[doreen.lampe@inupiatgov.com]; william.ingersoll@boem.gov[william.ingersoll@boem.gov]; tolemaun@nvbarrow.net[tolmaun@nvbarrow.net];

[redacted] Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Native.village@astacalaska.net[Native.village@astacalaska.net]; JSchaefer@tikigaq.net[JSchaefer@tikigaq.net]; tc.dio@kawerak.org[tc.dio@kawerak.org];

[redacted] Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

alex.whiting@qira.org[alex.whiting@qira.org]; tc.waa@kawerak.org[tc.waa@kawerak.org];

[redacted] Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy [redacted] tc.sva@kawerak.org[tc.sva@kawerak.org];

[redacted] Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy [redacted] drexford@ukpik.com[drexford@ukpik.com];

doreen.ahgeak@north-slope.org[doreen.ahgeak@north-slope.org];

[redacted] Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy [redacted] ethel.burke@nsbsd.org[ethel.burke@nsbsd.org];

[redacted] Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

[redacted] Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

jschaefer@tikigaq.com[jschaefer@tikigaq.com];

[redacted] Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

natural@inupiatgov.com[natural@inupiatgov.com];

abaily@petroleumnews.com[abaily@petroleumnews.com]; kindred@aoga.org[kindred@aoga.org];

laylahughes@laylahughes.com[laylahughes@laylahughes.com]; pleavitt-aewc@gci.net[pleavitt-aewc@gci.net]; hugh.patotak@olgoonik.com[hugh.patotak@olgoonik.com];

tabitha.birch@shell.com[tabitha.birch@shell.com]; mike.brock@uk.bp.com[mike.brock@uk.bp.com];

mgallo@earthjustice.org[mgallo@earthjustice.org];

grace\_cochon@ios.doi.gov[grace\_cochon@ios.doi.gov];

pamela\_bergmann@ios.doi.gov[pamela\_bergmann@ios.doi.gov]; grace.delarosa@north-slope.org[grace.delarosa@north-slope.org];

steve.w.brashier@conocophillips.com[steve.w.brashier@conocophillips.com];

michelle.hale@alaska.gov[michelle.hale@alaska.gov]; Soderlund, Dianne[Soderlund.Dianne@epa.gov];

Opalski, Dan[Opalski.Dan@epa.gov]; Lidgard, Michael[Lidgard.Michael@epa.gov]; Owens,

Kim[Owens.Kim@epa.gov]; Steiner-Riley, Cara[Steiner-Riley.Cara@epa.gov]; Holsman,

Marianne[Holsman.Marianne@epa.gov]; Godsey, Cindi[Godsey.Cindi@epa.gov]; MacIntyre,

Mark[MacIntyre.Mark@epa.gov]; Latier, Andrea[Latier.Andrea@epa.gov]; Cope,

Ben[Cope.Ben@epa.gov]; Mayers, Timothy[Mayers.Timothy@epa.gov]; Smith, Marla

J.[Smith.MarlaJ@epa.gov]; Fordham, Tami[Fordham.Tami@epa.gov]; Villa,

Catherine[Villa.Catherine@epa.gov]; Seyfried, Erin[Seyfried.Erin@epa.gov]

**From:** Seyfried, Erin

**Sent:** Fri 8/15/2014 3:41:01 PM

**Subject:** Update: EPA Re-Proposes Wastewater Discharge General Permit for Geotechnical Activities in Federal Waters of the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas  
[2014-08-15\\_Geotech GP Re-Proposal\\_FR Publication.pdf](#)

***This email provides you with information about current U.S. Environmental Protection Agency permit actions in the Arctic***

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is seeking input on a re-proposed wastewater discharge general permit authorizing discharges from Oil and Gas Geotechnical Surveys and Related Activities to Federal Waters of the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas (Permit No. AKG-28-4300).

On November 22, 2013, EPA released a draft NPDES general permit for oil and gas geotechnical surveys and related activities in federal waters of the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas for public review. The public comment period closed on February 19, 2014. Based on the comments received, EPA has made revisions to the draft Geotechnical General Permit and re-propses a revised draft for public review, accompanied by a Fact Sheet describing the revisions and a revised Ocean Discharge Criteria Evaluation. EPA seeks public comment only on the following proposed changes:

1. Inclusion of seasonal prohibitions on wastewater discharges within the 3-25 mile offshore lease deferral area in the Chukchi Sea;
2. Clarification of Environmental Monitoring Program requirements and inclusion of language regarding existing representative baseline data;
3. Clarification of drilling fluids and drill cuttings testing requirements (Discharge 001);
4. Revision of sampling frequencies for fecal coliform and total residual chlorine (Sanitary Wastewater, Discharge 003); and
5. Clarification of Notice of Intent submission requirements.

The re-proposed Geotechnical General Permit is developed by EPA under the Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, or NPDES, authority. The general permit proposes to authorize 12 types of discharges from facilities conducting geotechnical surveys and related activities. The general permit sets effluent limitations and requirements to ensure the discharges are protective of water quality and will not cause unreasonable degradation of the marine environment.

EPA is requesting public comments on the re-proposed Geotechnical General Permit, Fact Sheet, and Ocean Discharge Criteria Evaluation (ODCE). EPA will only consider comments on the re-proposed permit provisions. Comments submitted previously on

the initial draft Geotechnical General Permit need not be resubmitted; comments addressing permit provisions or issues beyond the scope of this re-proposal will not be considered. The public comment period **starts on August 15, 2014 and ends on September 15, 2014**.

Comments should include the General Permit number (AKG-28-4300) and a concise statement of the basis and facts supporting the comment. All comments must include your name, address, and telephone number. You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- **Mail:** Send paper comments to Erin Seyfried, Office of Water and Watersheds, Mail Stop OWW - 130, 1200 6th Avenue, Suite 900, Seattle, WA 98101 - 3140.
- **E - mail:** Send electronic comments to [R10geotechpermit@epa.gov](mailto:R10geotechpermit@epa.gov).
- **Fax:** Fax comments to the attention of Erin Seyfried at (206) 553 - 0165.

Additional details are included in the attached Federal Register notice.

For more information about the re-proposed Geotechnical General Permit and to view project documents, please visit:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/water.nsf/npdes+permits/arctic-gp>

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/WATER.NSF/NPDES+Permits/DraftPermitsAK>

The re-proposed Geotechnical General Permit, Fact Sheet, and ODCE may also be viewed at the following locations:

- **EPA Region 10 Library**, Park Place Building, 1200 6th Avenue, Suite 900, Seattle, WA 98101; (206) 553 - 1289.
- **EPA Region 10, Alaska Operations Office**, 222 W 7th Avenue, #19, Room 537, Anchorage, AK 99513; (907) 271 - 5083.
- **Z. J. Loussac Public Library**, 3600 Denali Street, Anchorage, AK 99503; (907) 343 - 2975.
- **North Slope Borough School District Library/Media Center**, Pouch 169, 829 Aivak Street, Barrow, AK 99723; (907) 852 - 5311.

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Erin E. Seyfried, M.S.

*Environmental Engineer*

U.S. EPA Region X, Suite 900  
NPDES Permits Unit, OWW-130  
1200 6th Ave. | Seattle, WA 98101

Seyfried.Erin@epa.gov  
(p) 206-553-1448 | (f) 206-553-0165